GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:685
ANSWERED ON:03.03.2008
BIRD FLU VACCINE
Pallani Shamy Shri K.C .

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has developed a vaccine to combat the deadly H5N1 bird flu virus;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government has taken any steps to ensure adequate availability and affordability of the new vaccine;and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(DR.AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a)&(b): Yes, Sir.Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has developed a killed vaccine using H5N1 field strain virus isolated from the outbreaks in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. Assessment for efficacy and potency of Avian Influenza vaccine through experimental studies have shown good protective antibody titre.

(c)&(d): Yes Sir.The Department has developed a vaccine bank arrangement with the capacity of 45 million doses of Avian Influenza vaccines. Till date, Government has not opted for vaccination against Avian Influenza.However, Government is maintaining the strategic reserve, if vaccination is to be introduced in future.However, the steps have been initiated by ICAR to make the availability of the indigenous vaccine through transfer of technology to commercial producers.Moreover, production of Avian Influenza vaccine requires bio-containment condition for handling such virus.